

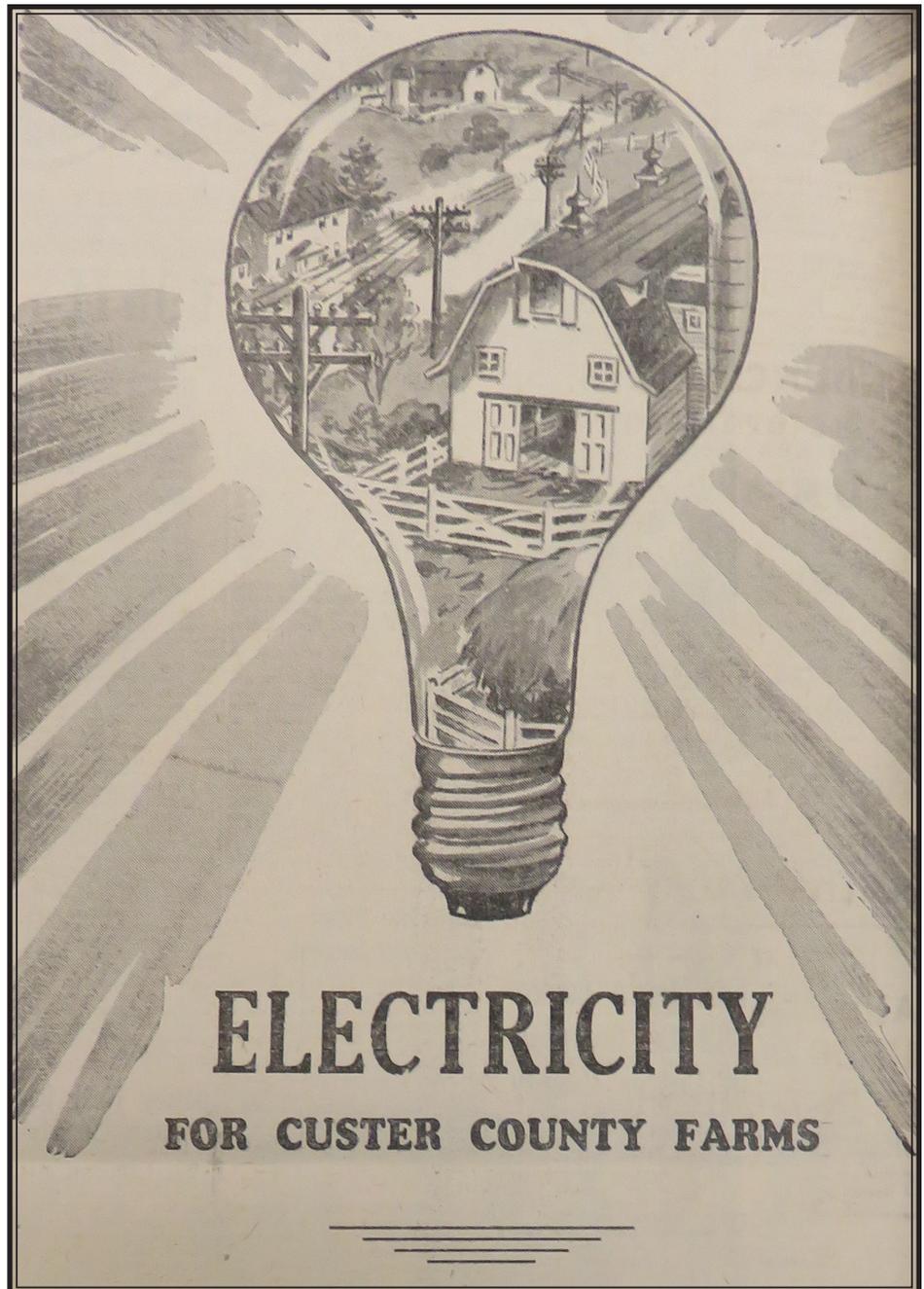
## ***Proud To Be Part Of Nebraska's History***

by Rick Nelson

We wanted to take a step back in time and look at a couple of decades that made us who we are today. It seems that the 1930's and the 1940's were a very influential time for public power. While we celebrate 75 years of being Custer Public Power District, let's take a look at where we've come from for a historical perspective.

There are really two significant events that help shape our existence from a Federal level. The first was the Homestead Act, signed by President Abraham Lincoln on May 20, 1862. This became the first example of the U.S. Government trying "to elevate the condition of men to lift artificial weights from all shoulders to give everyone a fair chance in the race of life", President Lincoln speaking at a Special Session of Congress on July 4, 1861.

The second was the Rural Electrification Act signed by President Franklin D Roosevelt on May 20, 1936. U.S. Senator George Norris of Nebraska worked in the 1930's with other





# Empowering Progress Through Our Youth

Every year, Custer Public Power District sponsors area youth whose families receive electrical services from Custer Public Power District and live in the Custer Public Power service territory.

There are two opportunities, but it starts with the all paid for NREA Summer Youth Energy Leadership Camp at the Nebraska National Forest at Halsey. After attending the NREA Summer Youth Energy Leadership Camp, the opportunity is available to compete for the all paid trip to the NRECA Youth Tour at Washington, D.C.

So, what happens at the NREA Summer Youth

***“It starts with the all paid for NREA Summer Youth Energy Leadership Camp at the Nebraska National Forest at Halsey.”***

Energy Leadership Camp? The camp is usually the second week of July. High school students who are in 9th to 11th grade from Nebraska, Wyoming, South Dakota, and Colorado who are served by one of the Nebraska Rural Electric Association’s (NREA) member-systems.

The students get a week filled with educational workshops geared for leadership, environmental awareness, character building, and social interaction. On top of this, guest speakers are invited to educate students about energy generation,

electric safety, and careers in the rural electric program. A couple of the highlights are the tours of the Gerald Gentleman Power Station near North Platte and the Kingsley Hydro Electric Power Plan near Ogallala. After the NREA Summer Youth Energy Leadership Camp, Custer Public Power sponsored students prepare a presentation for the Board of Directors to be presented at a monthly CPPD Board Meeting.

After that presentation, the Board of Directors vote to decide which student will represent Custer Public Power at the NRECA Youth Tour at Washington, D.C. in June of the next year

which is paid by Custer Public Power District. This sponsorship includes airfare, motel, meals, and events.

This year Sophia Doyle, Keegan Strohl, and Treyton Hurlburt attended the NREA Summer Youth Energy Leadership Camp.



(continued) senators and congressman who believed electrification would revolutionize rural life and give rural America a “fair chance.”

During this same time frame and maybe a little before, the Bureau of Reclamation was formed in 1923. The idea was the irrigation would “reclaim

arid lands for human use” since most of the area west

of the 98th meridian or a line that extends straight north and south just east of Grand Island Nebraska, was considered not suitable for growing crops. Settlers wanted a way to irrigate the crops on the lands that they settle.

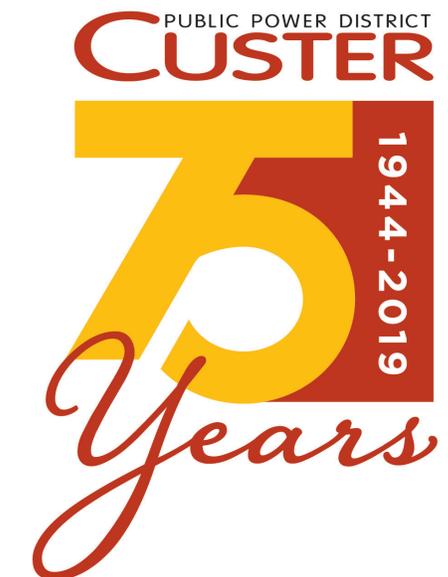
There is a longer story of history here, but the Bureau of Reclamation and the Army Corps of Engineers came together and formed a plan to help both the navigation of the Missouri river and to help with irrigation and electricity. This plan became known as the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program which was a part of the Flood Control Act of 1944.

Meanwhile, back in Nebraska, farmers in Nebraska were in need of irrigation for their crops. The Nebraska Legislature authorized the formation of public power districts and irrigation districts in 1933. These districts built a series of reservoirs, dams and canals to deliver water to farms in Nebraska. The districts also installed hydro-

***“Nebraska Legislature authorized the formation of public power districts and irrigation districts in 1933.”***

electric generators to provide electric power. Several of these districts merged resulting in the formation of Nebraska Public Power District in 1970. NPPD operated three hydros in the state. These hydros are the North Platte hydro, Kearney hydro and the Spencer hydro.

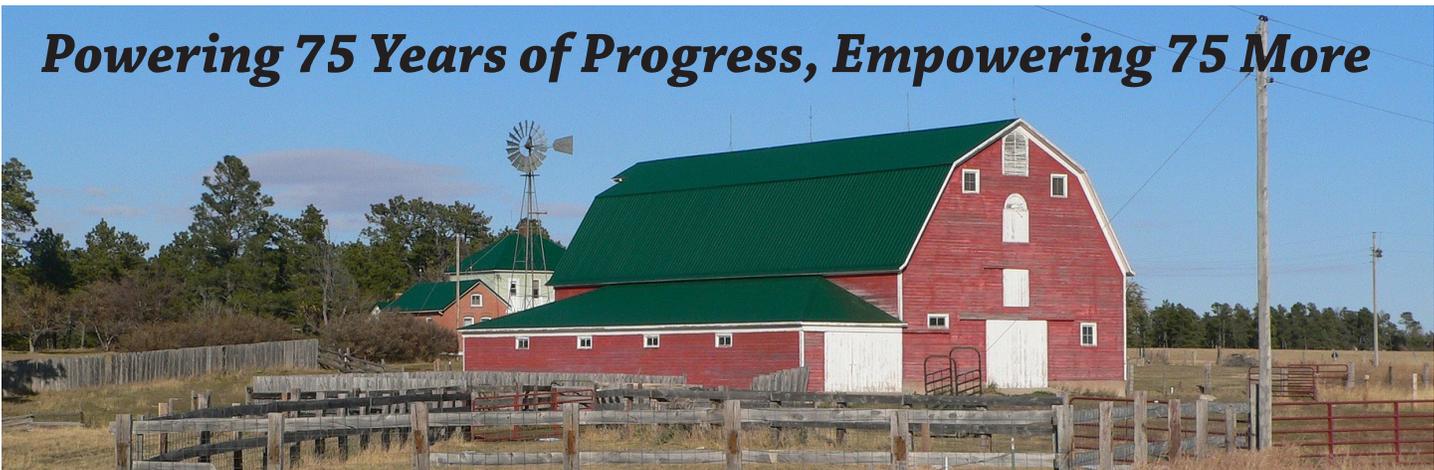
These same farmers in rural Nebraska also got together and with 15 percent of the customers getting together, formed Custer Public Power District. There are many other things that happened when Custer PPD was formed, but originally it was in the Custer County area. In the years to follow, this power district then stretched out



across all or part of 13 counties in central Nebraska to make up our service territory we have today.

We are proud of our history and also proud to serve such wonderful customers in central Nebraska. This history is what has made Custer Public Power what it is today and will serve our customers well into the future.

Custer Public Power District was formed in September of 1944. September of 2019 marks our 75th anniversary and proud to be a part of Nebraska's history.



***Powering 75 Years of Progress, Empowering 75 More***

# Cheesy Corn Poppers

by Delish US



## INGREDIENTS

- 6 ears corn, kernels removed
- 1 1/2 c. shredded mozzarella
- 3/4 (8-oz.) block cream cheese
- 2 large eggs, beaten
- 4 green onions, finely chopped, plus more for garnish
- 1/2 tsp. chili powder
- 3/4 c. cornmeal
- 1/2 c. all-purpose flour
- 3/4 c. panko bread crumbs
- 1/4 c. grated Parmesan, plus more for garnish
- Kosher salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- Vegetable oil, for frying

## DIRECTIONS

1. In a large bowl, combine corn, mozzarella, cream cheese, green onions, and chili powder. Season with salt and pepper. Add cornmeal, flour and eggs and stir until corn is thoroughly coated.
2. Scoop mixture into small balls. (If it's too loose, stir in up to 1/2 cup more flour and refrigerate for 30 minutes.) Combine panko and Parmesan and season with salt, then roll balls in panko.
3. In a large pot over medium heat, heat about 1" oil until shimmering. Working in batches, add corn poppers. Cook until golden all over, about 6 minutes total.
4. Garnish with more Parmesan and green onion. Serve warm.

## TIPS

If you have a candy thermometer, use it here. You're looking for a temperature around 350° before you go dropping in all the poppers. Speaking of which, DON'T add them all at once! Crowding the pot will reduce the oil's temp and lengthen the frying time. Even worse, the poppers will absorb more oil and taste greasy.

Recipe can be found online at [www.delish.com](http://www.delish.com)



photo by Brandon Bates

## Newsletter of the Custer Public Power District



Broken Bow, NE - Phone 872-2451  
[www.custerpower.com](http://www.custerpower.com)

Serving Custer, Loup, Blaine, Thomas, Hooker, McPherson, Logan and parts of Sherman, Garfield, Brown, Cherry, Lincoln, and Dawson Counties

## Officers & Directors

- Brad Bartak, Merna.....President
- John Blakeman, Merna.....Vice President
- Greg Smith, Milburn.....Secretary
- Brad Howard, Litchfield.....Treasurer
- Tom Roberts, Loup City.....Asst. Treasurer
- Lloyd Ramsey, Broken Bow.....Director
- Wayne V. Licking, Thedford.....Director

## Staff

- Rick Nelson.....General Manager
- Jerry Spanel.....Operations Manager
- Cheryl Taylor.....Director of Finance and Administration

## Board Meetings

The regular monthly meeting of the Custer Public Power District Board of Directors is on the last Thursday of each month, beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the main office in Broken Bow on Hwy. 2.

An agenda for each regular meeting of the board is available for public inspection during business hours.

In the event of matters of an emergency nature or conflicts with other meeting dates, the Board of Directors will set changes. Any change in the monthly meeting date will be posted in the legal notice at the main headquarters building at Broken Bow and at each of the District's area service centers located in Callaway, Sargent, Stapleton and Thedford, Nebraska.

